



Committed to INCLUSION

Conduct an Inclusion Audit of Your Place of Worship

The purpose of an inclusion audit is to make your faith community welcoming and inclusive of everyone, in all aspects of the life of your place of worship. An inclusion audit will help you see what work has already been done,

and what areas need to be improved. The inclusion audit is a guide and is not an all-inclusive list and some items may not apply to your setting.

TYPE	YES	NO	NOTES
Attitude Accessibility: <i>Attitudes are often the biggest barriers people with disabilities face. Education, awareness and sensitivity training are crucial.</i>			
Are persons with disabilities being included in the audit process?			
Are members made aware that one in five people live with a disability and one in four people experience a mental health concern over a lifetime?			
Does the place of worship offer regular educational opportunities for members through newsletters, information sessions, sermons, and small group discussions aimed at awareness of the wide scope of disabilities?			
Are members willing to thoughtfully include persons with disabilities in leadership boards and committees, study, worship services, and recreational activities?			
Do members acknowledge that inclusion is more than ramps and parking places?			
Is sensitivity training required for ushers, greeters, church staff, and others who come in contact with persons with disabilities?			
Communication: <i>Making communication available in many forms and easy to access can have a big impact on including people with disabilities.</i>			
Are assistive listening devices, microphones, and sign language interpreters available upon request at all services and main congregational events, including Bible study?			
Are large print bulletins, hymnals, Bibles, including Braille, available?			
Are CDs or digital versions of services and other events available?			
Is there signage and notice of availability of assistive equipment?			
Are printed versions of sermons available?			
Are volunteers available to read bulletins, lyrics, and Bibles when needed if a Braille embosser is not available?			

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Leadership: <i>The leaders of places of worship set the tone for their organization's members.</i>			
Does the pastor have disability awareness training?			
Are the pastor and pastoral visitors aware they should request an interpreter or communication materials when visiting persons with communication-based disabilities?			
Do teachers receive sensitivity training for working with persons with disabilities, including adapting materials?			
Are reimbursements available for additional expenses such as accessible transportation, rental of mobility, audio, interpreting or other equipment as needed for persons with disabilities who represent the church at meetings, retreats, conferences?			
Are reasonable accommodations made when persons with disabilities are in any worship leadership capacity, (i.e. choir members, readers, musicians)?			
Physical Accessibility: <i>Making the spaces within places of worship accessible is the first step to welcoming people with disabilities.</i>			
- Doors			
Do all doors open completely?			
Are door thresholds no more than ½ inch in height?			
Do doors have lever type hardware, panic bars or automatic door openers?			
Can doors be opened by exerting 5 pounds of pressure or less?			
Is there at least one accessible door with a 32" clear opening?			
- Stairs			
Are the edges of stairs painted with a contrasting color (often yellow) so people with low vision can see and safety?			
Do they have non-slip surfaces?			
Is there good lighting for stairways?			
Are stairways at least 44" width and handrails on both sides?			
Can handrails support at least 250 pounds?			
Do handrails extend one foot at the bottom and top of stairways?			
- Ramps and Curb Cuts and Walk Ways			
Are walkways and curb cuts clearly marked/painted?			
Do walkways and curb cuts have non-slip surfaces?			
Are ramps a minimum of 36" in width, extending one foot in length for every inch of rise (1':12" ratio) and have handrails on at least one side if it is over 6' in length?			
Is there a level rest platform at least 5' long for every 30" of ramp rise and a 5' x 5' platform at changes of direction?			
- Parking			
Are parking spaces at least 132" with a 60" aisle?			
Is accessible parking marked as reserved by a sign showing the accessible symbol?			
Are reserved spaces close to an accessible entrance?			
Is the parking level paved and well lighted?			
Is there clear, visible signage for access to walkways, ramps and parking areas?			

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TYPE	YES	NO	NOTES
Physical Accessibility (con't)			
- Elevators and Lifts			
Is there an elevator or chair lift for access to the sanctuary and all major areas?			
Are controls placed 54" or less from the floor, reachable from a wheelchair?			
Are Braille plaques on elevator control panels?			
- Restrooms and Water Fountains			
Is there at least one accessible restroom on each floor, which may be unisex?			
Is the restroom stall at least 60" x 60" to allow for wheelchair turning space, with two grab bars, one adjacent to the commode and one behind the commode?			
Is there no more than 34" of clearance from the floor to the sink?			
Is there one water fountain or water cooler with front controls on each floor?			
Are soap and towel dispensers no higher than 40" from the floor?			
Is the top rim of the water fountain between 30" - 34" above the floor or a drinking cup dispenser no higher than 40"?			
Is there an adult changing table available?			
- Worship Space			
Are wheelchair areas integrated throughout seating spaces rather than only the front, back or in aisle ways?			
Is seating space with extra leg room available for those with crutches, braces, walkers, etc.?			
Are chancel, choir, lectern, altar areas accessible to wheelchair users?			
Is there adequate lighting in the sanctuary and other worship spaces?			
Is there access for everyone to the communion table?			
Is there equal access for everyone to receive communion?			
Are ushers familiar with special needs and willing to assist as needed?			
- Classrooms			
Are the following available for children: soft blocks for children having behavioral issues; tactile signage on furniture, learning centers, doors, etc.; wheelchair lap table for a child in a wheelchair who cannot pull up to a child size table?			
Is there excellent lighting in all areas?			

This information is provided as a service to local businesses and organizations; inclusion here is not intended to represent an endorsement by the MCBDD. Be sure to check with a licensed contractor and state and federal ADA guidelines before making any structural changes. The audit does not imply expertise or advice but is meant to encourage discussion.



If you have questions or want more information on how to make your business more accessible, call us at 330-725-7751; option 3.